



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 5, 2008

H.R. 1771

Crane Conservation Act of 2008

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 30, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 1771 would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a grant program to protect and conserve wild cranes. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million a year through 2012 for financial assistance to eligible government agencies, international or foreign organizations, or private entities engaged in such activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts (beginning in 2009), CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1771 would increase discretionary spending by \$19 million over the 2009-2013 period and by \$1 million after 2013.

H.R. 1771 also would authorize the agency to invest unneeded balances of appropriated funds in federal securities and spend any proceeds from those investments without further appropriation. Enacting this legislation would therefore increase direct spending by an estimated \$200,000 a year beginning in 2010. The bill also would authorize the agency to accept and spend (also without further appropriation) donations from nonfederal sources, but any increase in revenues (from donations) would be offset by additional direct spending of such amounts.

H.R. 1771 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1771 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2008 and that authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the bill, beginning with fiscal year 2009. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a					
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	0
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	5	5

a. Enacting H.R. 1771 also would increase direct spending by an estimated \$200,000 a year, beginning in 2010, from the use of interest on appropriation balances.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1771 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Neil Hood

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis